

House Bill No. 4531 to License Naturopathic physicians

Introduced by Reps. Lyons, Schor, Darany, Irwin, Dillon and Crawford

We, members of the Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, OPPOSE House Bill No. 4531 to License Naturopathic Physicians.

First of all, licensure for naturopathic doctors is not necessary or rational since they have no evidence-based medicine to support what they do. There is potential harm to consumers by already burdening the health care system with no evidence-based medicine. Naturopathic physicians or doctors are misleading to the public since the public assumes that they are trained like medical doctors which they are not!

Michigan is in a state of crisis with the lead in the Flint water and the crumbling conditions of the roads, as tax payers, Michigan residents want their tax dollars to be used where it would provide the most benefit. Is this bill revenue neutral? What are the projected costs to the state or taxpayers to license these individuals? This licensure bill would do absolutely nothing to protect consumers in Michigan, it would just further confuse taxpayers.

LARA, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature made it perfectly clear in 2014 that the state would NOT be licensing any healthcare providers.

On March 16, 2015 Governor Snyder sent a letter to the entire legislature (which is in your packet) which details the principles that he will follow in determining whether to support additional occupation regulation. House Bill 4531 does not meet any of the criteria that the Governor listed in his letter.

Governor Snyder also stated that, "Licensing imposes additional costs on practitioners and their businesses, and ultimately on Michigan consumers who patronize these professions. Occupational regulations expand the size and scope of state government, and divert staff time and taxpayer funds".

In 2014 Representatives Lyons, Irwin, and Dillon, as co-sponsors of this bill, chose to de-regulate the Nutrition/Dietetics profession. As did some of the members of this Health Policy Committee. Registered Dietitian\Nutritionists practice using evidence-based medicine and are recognized by many health care organizations as

providers of evidence-based medicine in nutrition and dietetics. Plus we have outcomes to support our scope of practice and what we do. The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services chose to recognize Registered Dietitians as the provider of medical nutrition therapy.

With the presentation of this bill before this committee, I must assume that Representatives Lyons, Irwin and Dillon have changed their mind on licensing and therefore would be available to sponsor a Nutrition/Dietetics licensure bill.

Leonilda McDonagh, RDN

Charity Simpkins, MS, RDN

Claire Hammer, RDN

Jevgenija Meyers, RDN